

Activity 5

Volcanoes and the Atmosphere

Think About It

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- What else escapes from a volcano besides lava, rock and ash?



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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Volcanoes and the Atmosphere

Digging Deeper

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Gases from
volcanoes

water vapor, carbon dioxide,
hydrogen chloride, and nitrogen

Carbon dioxide

is more dense than air, so it sinks
to the base of the volcano

High concentrations are
dangerous, causing people and
animals to suffocate

Acid rain

when sulfur gases from volcanoes
mix with water vapor in the
atmosphere, acid rain forms

Acid rain damages plants and
other living things

Volcanoes warm
the climate

increased levels of carbon
dioxide (a greenhouse gas) trap
heat and warm the atmosphere

Volcanoes cool
the climate

dust and debris thrown into the
atmosphere block out the sun,
cooling the climate

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Check Your Understanding

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1. What gases escape from volcanoes?
2. Why is the release of carbon dioxide from a volcano hazardous?
- 4a. How is acid rain formed?
5. Do volcanic eruptions increase or decrease the temperature of the Earth? Explain.